

**North Carolina Sustainable Local Food
Advisory Council Minutes
April 26, 2012**

The tenth meeting of the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council (Council) was held April 26, 2012, at the Ruby McSwain Center at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC. Council Chair, Commissioner Troxler, opened the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Members in Attendance

Dr. Alice Ammerman
Dr. Nancy Creamer
Mr. John Day
Dr. Laura Gerald
Ms. Debbie Hamrick
Ms. Linda Harris
Ms. Savonala Horne

Mr. Phil Hudson
Mr. Charlie Jackson
Rev. Mac Legerton
Mr. Roland McReynolds
Ms. Earline E. Middleton
Mr. Randall Patterson
Commissioner Steve Troxler

Also in Attendance

Mr. Garrett Wyckoff was in attendance for Secretary Keith Crisco
Mr. Billy Guillet was in attendance for Mr. Billy Ray Hall
Ms. Zoe McKay-Tucker was in attendance for Dr. Lynn Harvey
Mr. Tom Melton was in attendance for Dr. Joe Zublena

Absent Members

Mr. Jamie Ager
Mr. Uli Bennewitz
Mr. Ted Burch
Secretary Keith Crisco
Mr. Billy Ray Hall

Ms. Jane Iseley
Mr. Barry Nash
Mr. Willy Phillips
Mr. Tommy Porter, Jr.

Opening Comments

Commissioner Troxler welcomed the Council as well as those in attendance. He introduced Dr. Laura Gerald. Dr. Gerald was named State Health Director on February 1, 2012, and will be serving on the Council.

Commissioner Troxler discussed the Speakers Series events he has been hosting throughout North Carolina. There have been two events at NC State University, one at UNC-Asheville, one at UNC-Charlotte, and one at UNC-Greensboro. Four of the events have been focused on local foods.

Commissioner Troxler introduced Kristen Baughman. She was an intern, helping with his class at NC State University. She is also completing her Masters in Extension Education. Kristen will be working with Ms. Joy Hicks and the Council. She also helped coordinate the Speakers Series events. She has a personal blog about local foods: 43daylocalfoodchallenge.wordpress.com.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012, meeting as

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presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Linda Harris. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of Chairs

Ms. Linda Harris made a motion to move to election of chairs and nominated Commissioner Troxler as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Debbie Hamrick. Rev. Mac Legerton made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roland McReynolds. The vote carries. Commissioner Troxler thanked the Council and stated he looks forward to serving again as Chair.

Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to nominate Dr. Nancy Creamer as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Linda Harris. Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Linda Harris. The vote carries. Dr. Nancy Creamer thanked the Council and stated she enjoys serving as Vice Chair.

Ms. Earline E. Middleton made a motion to maintain Dr. Alice Ammerman as chair of the Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roland McReynolds; the vote carries.

Ms. Linda Harris made a motion to maintain Mr. John Day as chair of the Land, People and Natural Resources Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randall Patterson; the vote carries.

Mr. Roland McReynolds made a motion to maintain Ms. Debbie Hamrick as chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nancy Creamer; the vote carries.

Subcommittee chairs will serve for a two-year term per Council bylaws.

Local Foods Assessment Update

The Local Foods Assessment update was led by Mr. John Day and Ms. Debbie Hamrick. Mr. Day discussed how the number of food assessments being done is localized across the state. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has given three different sustainability grants in North Carolina. Food Council is part of the Local Food Assessment and Action plan in Charlotte. Council of Government is receiving funds to conduct a comprehensive economic assessment; this is the first time that agriculture and food will be in the process.

Ms. Debbie Hamrick gave an overview of the Local Foods Assessment meeting, which was held on April 10, 2012, in Forsyth County. The meeting had over 50 people in attendance, and different groups were represented such as Piedmont Grown, ASAP, and Feast Down East. Agriculture was sighted by participants as an asset to the community. The meeting started cross-

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communication with various local foods assessment groups statewide. Numerous groups are collecting data, which the Council will be able to leverage for future initiatives.

Seeds of Change Initiative

Ms. Lauri Wilson and Ms. Cheryl Hagevik led a discussion about Heifer International's Seeds of Change Initiative. The High Country is home to one of two project pilots in the US. This pilot project includes five counties in northwestern NC and one in northeastern Tennessee. Getting produce from local farms into schools is much easier logistically in Tennessee. One goal of the initiative is to create an area of entrepreneurship, with phase one concentrating on capacity building. The project is conducting needs-based and solutions-based assessments in the region. Cheryl has also built interactive maps focused on markets and determining food deserts. The presenters also discussed the Appalachian State University Farm Incubator and Grower Program (FIG). Commissioner Steve Troxler shared that NC has a Farm to School program, managed by NCDA&CS. There has been a shift school food preparation from cooking foods on site to utilizing heat and serve products. Ms. Debbie Hamrick mentioned the need for places where local fruits and vegetables can be processed in the region to provide ready-to-eat or packaged foods.

Legislative Update

Ms. Joy Hicks led the Council in a legislative update. The 2012 Short Session begins on May 16. She also shared that the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation is making a Farm to School announcement on May 15, 2012.

The legislative subcommittees are currently active. The Council is being discussed and Council members have been making presentations to these subcommittees. The House Select Committee on Agriculture has proposed two bills. The first bill is about egg candling and grading; it will move the number that can be sold without grading from 30 dozen to 150 dozen eggs, which is equivalent to the Virginia law. The second bill includes extending the Council's sunset date and removing the word "sustainable" from the Council's name and definition of sustainability from the statute.

On July 1, 2012 there will be 4 to 8 terms expiring from the Council; these positions are all farmers, as well as the Grange and fishermen representatives. These Council members will continue to serve until replaced or reappointed.

Ms. Teresa Heath, an intern working with the House Select Committee on Childhood Obesity, discussed the eight pieces of legislation the committee approved. The first four recommendations deal with child nutrition programs:

1. Recommended \$1.7 million to support elimination of reduced-price breakfast cost. Only 30% of students participate in breakfast, will roll to free breakfast program.

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2. NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will work with schools to reduce overall food costs.
3. Will save money by removing requirement to secure juice and water separately.
4. DPI and State Board of Education determine time for meals and making it an educational opportunity (ex: grab and go options to eat in the classroom).

The last recommendations deal with community impacts:

5. NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase participation in SNAP-Ed, get DHHS more involved and more people participating.
6. No legislation required: appreciates the efforts in helping farmers become GAP certified for participation in the NCDA&CS Farm to School program.
7. General Assembly to require DHHS & NCDA&CS to increase the number of farmers' markets using SNAP-Ed benefits. Make sure electronic benefit transfer can be used at farmers' markets.
8. Continue the Council until July 31, 2015.
9. Physical education taskforce to be established to examine ways to increase exercise in schools. Recommend a strategic plan.
10. DPI to gather accurate information about obesity rates in the state.
11. No legislation required: present recommendations of early childhood obesity taskforce.

Mr. Charlie Jackson inquired if there is any money associated with recommendation seven regarding SNAP-Ed. Ms. Teresa Heath noted that no fiscal note is attached at this time. Mr. Charlie Jackson stated that ASAP has been looking at costs. Need recommendation that these efforts are not without cost and need to be made sustainable.

Action: Mr. Charlie Jackson will share ASAP's budget information with the committee.

Ms. Joy Hicks noted that she will be in communication with the Council as she gets more information about bills related to the Council. Legislation looks at extending the Council, but there is no funding associated. She will also begin to approach committees about the technical change to the bill to remove the Farm Transition Network position. Ms. Debbie Hamrick inquired about the status of the current Golden Leaf Grant; Ms. Hicks responded that the extension is until the end of July. Council will apply for another grant and include asking for funding to conduct a local food assessment. Funding is needed for administration cost to provide meeting space and reimburse non-state employees.

Dr. Nancy Creamer would also like to change the Council's sunset recommendation from 3 years to 5 years, as well as keeping sustainability in the legislation. United Nation's Agenda 21 is the reasoning behind why the word sustainability was removed; it is controversial and is about 20 years old. The Council discussed changing the definition of the word "sustainable" or taking out the word. Commissioner Troxler stated he is proud of the Council's actions and ability to work

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together. The Council needs to continue to have a unified voice; agriculture needs to be included in discussions throughout North Carolina.

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)

Mr. Charlie Jackson led the Council in a discussion about ASAP's marketing efforts. He first discussed the new Local Food Research Center, which is looking at food systems and how profitability can stay with local farms. The demands for local foods are similar between rural and urban communities. ASAP has an Appalachian Grown certification and branding program with over 500 farms and 300 businesses involved. Annual agreements are made on the definition of "local." There has been a four-fold increase in local food purchase as a result of this campaign. The following list includes ASAP's local food marketing efforts:

- "Get Local" campaign featuring local products monthly
- Connect tourism activities to the local farms
- Local Food Guide, updated yearly
- The Mixing Bowl, a farm-to-business directory
- School activity book, just printed
- Working with distribution chains, complementary to "Got to be NC" program

Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Debbie Hamrick reported on the Economic Development and Infrastructure subcommittee's last meeting. The subcommittee discussed the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code with Ben Chapman, NC State University. The recent Food Code updates may be problematic for some small farmers because they must maintain 41 degrees F on cut greens. Ben Chapman will be conducting research on this issue. The committee also discussed the CFSA listening sessions with coastal farmers and fishermen. The main points will be captured to make recommendations in a report. The next meeting will be at 10 AM on June 11, 2012 at the Farm Bureau headquarters in Raleigh.

Dr. Alice Ammerman reported on the Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access subcommittee's last meeting. The subcommittee discussed their concerns with the leafy green regulation. The committee had about 20 members at the meeting representing different groups like NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Department of Public Health, school boards, and other collaborators. During the meeting the subcommittee discussed the Childhood Obesity taskforce recommendations, SNAP-Ed, school gardens, and Super Summer Meals. The next meeting will be at 2 PM on June 1, 2012 at the NCDA&CS Agronomic Building conference room.

Mr. John Day reported on the Land, People and Natural Resources subcommittee's last meeting. The subcommittee discussed improving communication in all sectors of the North Carolina food system. The subcommittee suggested hosting an annual public meeting and cultivating an online

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portal. Barriers need to be removed around the words “sustainable” and “conventional” to support a shared culture and unite around a common goal, local food. The next meeting will be at 11 AM on June 11, 2012 at the Farm Bureau headquarters in Raleigh.

Ms. Joy Hicks stated that the next subcommittee meetings will be dedicated to formulating draft recommendations for the Council meeting in July. The September Council meeting will be when the recommendations are finalized; they are due on October 1, 2012.

Present Use Value (PUV) Task Force Update

Mr. Roland McReynolds reported that the PUV task force had a conference call on April 23, 2012. The meeting was very preliminary and the group discussed planning to make a presentation to the PUV Advisory board.


Closing Comments

Commissioner Troxler reported that due to redistricting and population-driven representation, rural North Carolina will lose representation in the General Assembly. We need to communicate with urban representatives so they understand the importance of agriculture and agribusiness. Mike Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods at FDA, will be coming to North Carolina to discuss implementation and effects on farmers due to the new FDA rules on fresh produce. The Food and Drug Division of the NCDA&CS will be involved on implementation to make the process as seamless as possible for producers.

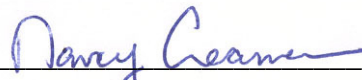
Mr. John Day made a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Nancy Creamer and passed unanimously. The Council meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Prepared by:
Kristen Baughman
NCDA&CS

Adopted by the Council this 26th day
of July, 2012



Commissioner Steven W. Troxler, Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council



Dr. Nancy Creamer, Vice Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council